

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

003/012

NOV 14 2006

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status and new claims are indicated.

1. (Original) An apparatus for supporting objects to identify, comprising:
a belt configured to transport the objects through a photographing section;
and

a linear material stretched across the photographing section in the object transporting direction, each of the objects transported by the belt to the photographing section being supported between the belt and the linear material and photographed from the linear material side.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a frame configured to be detachably attached to the photographing section and having a photographing window across which the linear material is stretched;
upstream and downstream guides arranged at upstream and downstream sides of the photographing window, respectively, configured to support the linear material;

a slide face formed at least on the upstream guide, configured to face the belt; and

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

a recess formed in the slide face, configured to receive the linear material, each of the objects transported by the belt to the photographing section being guided along the slide face on the upstream side of the photographing window toward the linear material and belt so that the object is supported between the linear material and the belt and transported thereby.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the objects are flat and have disk shapes of different diameters; and

a plurality of the belts and linear materials are arranged in parallel with one another with the linear materials being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects of different diameters between the belts and the linear materials.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

the objects are flat and have disk shapes of different diameters; and

a plurality of the belts and linear materials are arranged in parallel with one another with the linear materials being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects of different diameters between the belts and the linear materials.

5. (New) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said linear material is a string.

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said linear material is a string.
7. (New) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said linear material is a string.
8. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said linear material is a string.
9. (New) An apparatus for conveying and imaging objects, comprising:
an imaging device disposed to image a frame area;
a moving belt disposed to contact and advance said objects through said frame area;
a frame structure disposed at said frame area;
a line tensioned across said frame area by said frame structure so as to be taught;
said line being disposed between said imaging device and said objects; and
said line being disposed opposing said moving belt such that said objects are retained between said line and said moving belt and in said frame area and imaged.
10. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
said frame structure being detachably attached to the imaging device and having a photographing window across which the linear material is stretched;

Docket No. F-7876

Scr. No. 10/606,628

upstream and downstream guides arranged at upstream and downstream sides of the photographing window as defined by a transport direction of said moving belt, said line being held tensioned by said upstream and downstream guides;

a slide face formed at least on the upstream guide and configured to face the moving belt; and

a recess formed in the slide face, configured to receive the linear material, each of the objects transported by the moving belt to the imaging device being guided along the slide face on the upstream side of the photographing window toward the line and the moving belt so that the object is supported between the line and the moving belt.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

the objects being flat and having disk shapes of different diameters;

a plurality of moving belts which include said moving belt;

a plurality of lines which include said line; and

said lines and said moving belts being arranged in parallel with one another with the lines being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects of different diameters between the moving belts and the lines.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

the objects being flat and having disk shapes of different diameters;
a plurality of moving belts which include said moving belt;
a plurality of lines which include said line; and
said lines and said moving belts being arranged in parallel with one another
with the lines being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects
of different diameters between the moving belts and the lines.